

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1-3 to further clarify the subject matter of the present invention, to overcome the § 112 rejections and to amend any functional statements that are not directed to structural limitations so that the claims will be given patentable weight. In addition, Applicant has amended the Abstract to conform with the length requirement set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b). No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cho (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,780) and claims 2, 4-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cho in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA). As the instant application claims priority to JP 2001-391439, which has a filing date of December 25, 2001, and this priority document supports the subject matter set forth in the pending claims, and the effective filing date thereof predates the effective filing date of Cho, which is February 8, 2002, it is respectfully submitted that Cho does not constitute valid prior art to the instant application. A certified translation of JP 2001-391439 is being filed concurrently with this Amendment in order to perfect the claim of priority. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections based on Cho must be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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